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WELCOME BACK TO THE 'JUNGLE'

Lola Kirke says her show says a lot about what's happening now. 16

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1. Why have students at West Philadelphia High School been told to avoid drinking water from the school's faucets and drinking fountains?

2. Who was the last Flyers' player to eclipse the 40-goal mark?

3.Which big movie star is "Mozart in the Jungle" actress Lola Kirke starring with in her upcoming movie "American Made"?

3 things you need to know

1 US SURGEON GENERAL GIVES THUMBS DOWN TO E-CIGARETTES

The U.S. surgeon general in a report called for action to reduce the use of e-cigarettes among young people, noting they have overtaken cigarettes to become the most commonly used tobacco products among this group. Vivek Murthy, the country's top doctor, in the first Surgeon General's report on e-cigarettes use among youths, said young people were more vulnerable to the negative consequences of nicotine exposure than adults and should be protected. "We know a great deal about what works to effectively prevent tobacco use among young people," the report said. "Now we must apply these strategies to e-cigarettes." The report recommends that e-cigarettes be incorporated into existing smoke-free policies to prevent youth from accessing e-cigarettes. REUTERS

2 US ESTIMATES 50,000 ISLAMIC STATE FIGHTERS KILLED SO FAR

The U.S. military believes that some 50,000 Islamic State fighters have been killed since the United States started battling the group more than two years ago, a senior U.S. military official said on Thursday, calling it a "conservative estimate." The official, who spoke to Pentagon reporters on condition of anonymity, said the figure showed how the United States was effectively combating the group with U.S.-led coalition airpower and limited U.S. troop deployments in support of local forces. REUTERS

3 MASSIVE ANNUAL DEFENSE POLICY BILL PASSES US CONGRESS

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly passed a compromise version of an annual defense policy bill without controversial provisions such as requiring women to register for the draft or allowing contractors to make religion-based hiring decisions. Ninety-two senators backed the $618.7 billion National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, and seven opposed it. Because it passed the House of Representatives by a similarly large margin last week, the bill now goes to the White House for President Barack Obama to veto or sign into law. The White House would not comment on Thursday on what Obama would do. On Dec. 2, a spokesman had said officials were still reviewing the legislation. However, the NDAA passed both chambers in the Republican-led Congress with margins large enough to overcome a veto, and the compromise legislation features many provisions such as a raise for U.S. forces and an expansion of a landmark human rights bill. REUTERS

ISTOCK

Dirty water at Philly high school prompts investigation

Health officials cleared the high school's discolored water for hand-washing, but not drinking.

ALEXIS SACHDEV
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West Philadelphia High School, at 49th and Chestnut streets. SCREENSHOT/GOOGLE MAPS

Yellow water flows through the pipes at West Philadelphia High School.

School officials have told students and faculty to stop drinking the discolored water, which was discovered on Nov. 17, according to reports.

Drinking fountains were promptly shut off and the cafeteria is not using any of the school's water to prepare food, School District of Philadelphia spokesman Lee Whack said Thursday morning. The Health Department cleared the high school's discolored water for hand-washing, but not for consumption.

"Immediately upon getting reports about issues with water at West Philly High, we sprang into action as far as working with the [Philadelphia] Water Department in determining the exact cause of this," Whack said.

Part of that response has included bringing in cases of bottled water to serve students and faculty. Whack said meals are being prepared at other schools, or the high school is using prepackaged lunches. He said the building staff is also working on flushing pipes.

The school, at 49th and Chestnut streets, held meetings with teachers earlier this week, and has sent notices to parents regarding the issue.

During the summer, the district tested 40 schools throughout the city for lead contamination. The schools chosen were in neighborhoods where children had tested with high levels of lead in their blood, or if the building hadn't been renovated in more than two decades, Philly.com reported.

Testing is still not complete, but Whack said the high school's ochre-colored water is "not related to that."

He added, "That is a separate matter from what is the issue at West Philly High."

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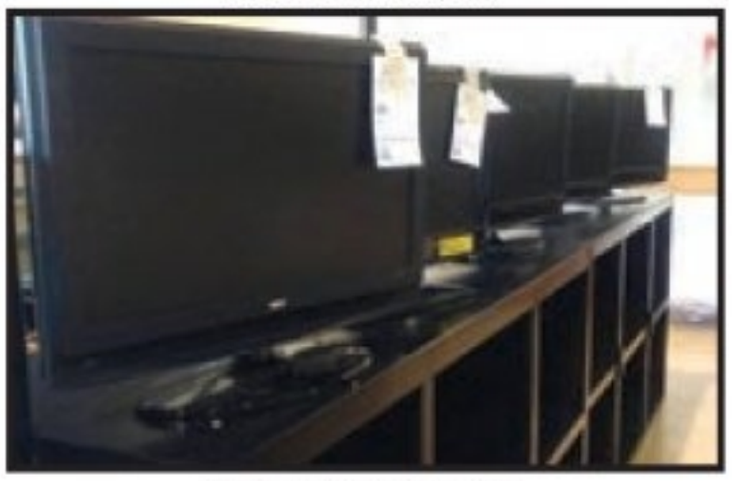

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Philly looks to change standards for awarding public works contracts

Objections have already been raised about the proposal which will require changing the city charter.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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CHARLES MOSTOLLER

City Council unanimously voted Thursday to give residents the opportunity to vote on a proposed City Charter change that is already under attack for allegedly widening opportunities for corruption.

City Councilman Bobby Henon introduced a bill which will ask voters in May to approve a change to the charter to allow city public works contracts to be awarded on a "best value" standard, instead of the current "lowest bidder" policy.

"As far as the last and loudest criticism about best value, that it opens the door to cronyism and pay-to-play politics, I can say the following: This process will be transparent and open at every turn," Henon said during the council meeting. "Despite the claims of some, and I am proud to say this, best value is good policy."

Henon introduced the bill on behalf of the administration of Mayor Jim Kenney.

Out of the 20 largest cities in the country, only two — Philadelphia and Indianapolis — require public works contracts to be issued to the "lowest bidder," according to the city. The low-bid standard may be hurting the city's procurement of bidders to work on various public works contracts, they claim.

"The lowest bid price, our current practice, does not necessarily lead to the lowest final cost to the city, or the best use of public dollars," Philadelphia Chief Administrative Officer Rebecca Rhynhart testified at a Nov. 22 City Council hearing on the bill. "Best value will allow the city to get the most value for every dollar we spend."

Rhynhart said a "best value" standard would allow the city to consider other criteria, such as on-time, on-budget performance; minority, women, or disabled-owned business enterprise participation goals, and project schedule and approach.

The bill came under attack before it went before council for a vote. Jay McCalla, former deputy managing director under mayors Ed Rendell and John Street, assailed the bill in an Inquirer opinion piece earlier this week titled "City Council bill widens door to corruption."

McCalla argued that "the venerated standard of 'low bidder' is "objective," while under the new standard, "these men [Mayor Jim Kenney and Councilman Bobby Henon] are swinging open the door to political pressure in an arena that has been admirably free of it."

"The bill would provide the Kenney administration with the tools to steer contracts to donors or other favored firms, substantially increasing an ability to fundraise," he continued. "The universe for backroom favor-trading would have radically expanded, with the additional benefit of being able to punish nonunion vendors."

However, the bill states that low bidders will still get contracts unless the city determines a different bidder offers a better value.

Henon argued that the charter change will "open up procurement projects to small vendors that haven't bid for city contracts before … vendors who couldn't compete with bigger businesses that can do the job for cheaper, though not necessarily better."

Voters will get the final say on whether they support changing the standard or not in May.

BRIEF

Pro-Mumia supporters plan rally on 35th anniversary of officer's murder

Thirty-five years ago, on Dec. 9, 1981, 25-year-old Philly cop Daniel Faulkner was shot to death at 13th and Locust streets.

That death led to the conviction on murder charges of Mumia Abu-Jamal. To mark the 35th anniversary of Abu-Jamal's arrest, supporters are planning a march through Center City on Friday.

Abu-Jamal, who activists call a "political prisoner," is currently serving a life sentence at a state prison in Mahanoy. The protest organizers say Abu-Jamal's health is in danger as state prisons are not providing him with anti-viral medications for his hepatitis C.

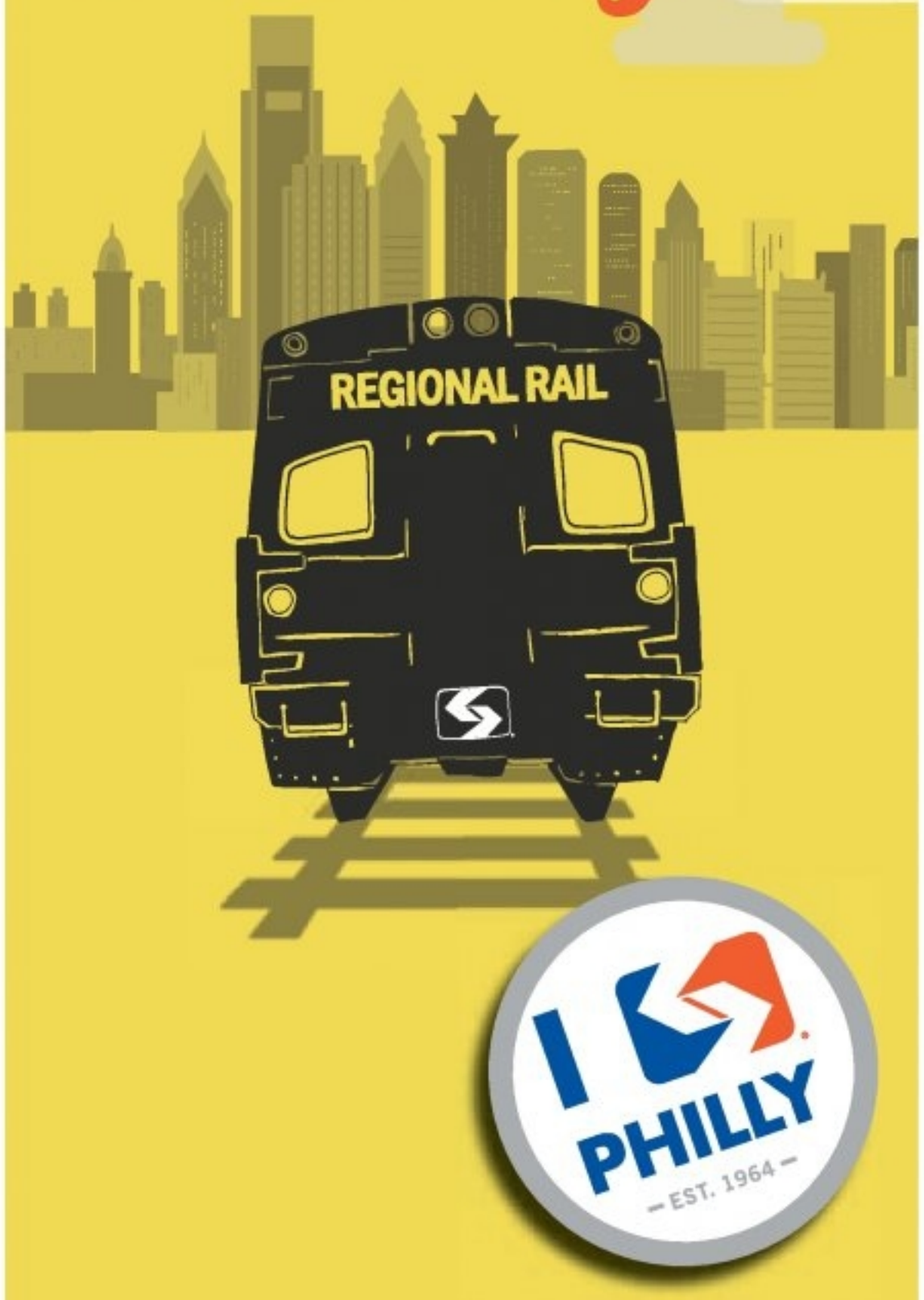
"Abu-Jamal is experiencing increased symptoms of the deadly hepatitis C virus," organizers said. "His deteriorating health is again approaching alarming levels as occurred in March, 2015, when he was rushed to the hospital unconscious."

Supporters of Abu-Jamal are currently suing the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to get him new medication and the DOC is not commenting on Abu-Jamal's medical condition.

Activists plan to gather at the Mayor Frank Rizzo statue at 15th and JFK at 3 p.m. and march to Gov. Tom Wolf's office and the Philadelphia District Attorney's office before ending at Arch Street United Methodist Church for an indoor rally and panel discussion.

The Philly police department's union did not respond to inquiries as to whether any memorial for Faulkner will be held or for comments about the march. SAM NEWHOUSE

The timetables they are a-changin'



New Regional Rail schedules start Sunday, December 11. Look for posters detailing specific changes for your line or pick up new printed timetables at Center City Stations and Customer Service Locations. Online schedules are now available for download at **septa.org**.

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BRIEF

Donate to Metro's Toy Drive
In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, Metro is once again launching Metro Magic, our annual toy drive for underprivileged children in New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

This year marks the 7th anniversary of the toy drive, which was renamed in memory of the man who oversaw the project for more than four years, Tony Metcalf, Metro's longest-running editor in chief. Mr. Metcalf passed away in 2013 from colon cancer at the age of 50.

Mr. Metcalf lit up every year as he saw the faces of children unwrap their holiday gifts. It is our goal to keep that magic alive.

"Tony felt we should use the size and scale of Metro to help other's and he used enormous dedication and force to execute the project and every year make children in need a little happier during the holiday season," said Metro's Chief Executive Officer Yggers Mortensen.

"I am proud to continue this project in honor of Tony and I hope all our readers, suppliers and members of the Metro team will help to make this yet another great Metro Magic year."

Metro has created a wish list at the Target website that readers can access by going to Metro .us and clicking on the Tony's Metro Magic story on the homepage.

From there, just choose the toys you wish to donate, pay online using Target's secure payment system, and your gifts, along with your name attached, will be delivered to Metro's offices in each city.

This season, we hope you will remember the children who will spend the holidays in shelters or who may not have gifts to open. Even one small gift can make a big difference in a child's holiday season.

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Despite blizzard conditions, military veterans march in support of the "water protectors" at Oceti Sakowin Camp outside Cannon Ball, North Dakota. GETTY IMAGES

For US veterans, pipeline protest promises to galvanize activism

Many veterans who went to Cannon Ball, North Dakota, to join the monthslong protests said they were already looking for their next issue to support.

U.S. veterans, thousands of whom last week helped stop a contested oil pipeline running through North Dakota, could become important partners of activists on the environment, the economy, race and other issues that divide Americans.

Several academics said the effort to support the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and others opposed to the pipeline project was likely the biggest gathering of its kind of former military personnel since the early 1970s when U.S. veterans marched against the Vietnam War.

That so many veterans mobilized in less than two weeks to rural North Dakota speaks to the power they may have on public opinion, because of their status as having put their lives on the line for their country, veterans and academics said.

"The sense that vets are distinctively American figures, regardless of political beliefs, always seems to have currency, even when they are working on different sides of an issue," said Stephen Ortiz, a history professor at the State University of Binghamton in New York.

"Militarily-trained soldiers have now discerned, on their own, a genuine, just cause for which to promote and defend, and this time without being under orders to do so," said Brian Willson, whose 2011 memoir "Blood on the Tracks: The Life and Times of S. Brian Willson", described how after serving in the Vietnam War, he became a nonviolent protester for social change in the United States.

Law enforcement tactics, particularly the use of water cannons, against the protesters had been considered extreme by some. Veterans said in interviews they felt galvanized to act as a human shield, providing a respite for those who had been at the protest camp for months.

The pipeline owned by Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners LP (ETP.N), is routed adjacent to the Standing Rock Sioux's reservation. Protesters have said the $3.8 billion project could contaminate the water supply and damage sacred tribal lands.

The veterans at Standing Rock were led by former Marine Michael Wood Jr. and Army veteran Wes Clark Jr., son of retired U.S. Gen. Wesley Clark, former commander of NATO. The group raised $1.1 million through online crowdfunding to help transport, house and feed veterans at the camp. REUTERS

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U.S. President-elect Donald Trump exits his plane. GETTY IMAGES

Sources: Trump gets one presidential intelligence briefing a week

Although they are not required to, presidents-elect have in the past generally welcomed the opportunity to receive the President's Daily Brief (PDB), the most highly classified and closely held document in the government, on a regular basis.

President-elect Donald Trump is receiving an average of one presidential intelligence briefing a week, according to U.S. officials familiar with the matter, far fewer than most of his recent predecessors.

It was not immediately clear why Trump has decided not to receive the intelligence briefings available to President Barack Obama more frequently, or whether that has made any difference in his presidential preparations. Trump's representatives did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Trump has asked for at least one briefing, and possibly more, from intelligence agencies on specific subjects, one of the officials said. The source declined to identify what subjects interested the president-elect, but said that so far they have not included Russia or France.

Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, Trump's vice president-elect, has been receiving his own PDB at least six days a week, the sources familiar with the matter said.

Former Central Intelligence Agency briefer David Priess, the author of a book about PDBs, said that traditionally, Trump and Pence's predecessors sat for "daily or near-daily intelligence briefings" between their elections and their inaugurations.

He said Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan did not start receiving their daily briefings until later in November, while the delayed election result in 2000 meant that George W. Bush did not start receiving his until December.

The briefings are not compulsory. Priess said that after his first election, Richard Nixon spurned face-to-face briefings, so paper PDBs were delivered to his office, only for a "stack" of them to be later returned to the CIA, unopened.

Trump's casual attitude to the briefings attracted criticism from Representative Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee.

"It is deeply disturbing that the president-elect has time for rallies but not for regular intelligence briefings," Schiff said.

During the run-up to the Nov. 8 presidential election, Trump and a handful of advisers received at least two briefings from intelligence officials about broad national security issues.

However, the pre-election briefings did not include the kind of secrets that are included in the PDBs that Obama, Trump and Pence now have access to. Such secrets include information about U.S. espionage sources and covert operations overseas.

PDBs are presented to presidents and their closest aides by representatives of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), though material in them is prepared by the CIA, the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency and other parts of the U.S. intelligence community, the officials said.

During and after the election campaign, Trump raised questions about the intelligence on hacking of U.S. political institutions. REUTERS

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John Glenn, former astronaut, senator, dies in Ohio at 95

Glenn was credited with reviving U.S. pride after the Soviet Union's early domination of manned space exploration.

John Glenn speaks during a transfer ceremony for the Space Shuttle Discovery at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia, April 19, 2012. GETTY IMAGES

John Glenn, who became one of the 20th century's greatest explorers as the first American to orbit Earth and later as the world's oldest astronaut, in addition to a long career as a U.S. senator, died Thursday at age 95.

Glenn, the last surviving member of the original seven American "Right Stuff" Mercury astronauts, died at the James Cancer Hospital at Ohio State University, said Hank Wilson, a spokesman at the university's John Glenn College of Public Affairs, which Glenn helped found.

Glenn's three laps around the world in the Friendship 7 capsule on Feb. 20, 1962, forged a powerful link between the former fighter pilot and the Kennedy-era quest to explore outer space as a "New Frontier."

After splashdown and recovery in the Atlantic, Glenn was treated as a hero, addressing a joint session of Congress and being feted in a New York ticker-tape parade.

The space agency tweeted: "We are saddened by the loss of Sen. John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth. A true American hero. Godspeed, John Glenn. Ad Astra." Ad Astra is Latin for "To the stars."

Sen. Bill Nelson of Florida, who orbited Earth aboard space shuttle Columbia in 1986, said, "On top of paving the way for the rest of us, he was also a first-class gentleman and an unabashed patriot."

Glenn's experiences as a pioneer astronaut were chronicled in the book and movie "The Right Stuff," along with the other Mercury pilots. The book's author, Tom Wolfe, called Glenn "the last true national hero America has ever had."

> *"With John's passing, our nation has lost an icon."*
>
> President Obama

"I don't think of myself that way," Glenn told the New York Times in 2012 to mark the 50th anniversary of his flight. "I get up each day and have the same problems others have at my age. As far as trying to analyze all the attention I received, I will leave that to others."

Glenn's historic flight made him a favorite of President John Kennedy and his brother Robert, who encouraged him to launch a political career that finally took off after a period as a businessman made him a millionaire.

Even before his Mercury flight, Glenn qualified for hero status, earning six Distinguished Flying Crosses and flying more than 150 missions in World War Two and the Korean War.

After Korea, Glenn became a test pilot, setting a transcontinental speed record from Los Angeles to New York in 1957.

The determination and single-mindedness that marked Glenn's military and space career did not save him from misjudgments and defeat in politics. He lost his first bid for the Senate from Ohio in 1970, after abandoning a race in 1964 because of a head injury suffered in a fall.

He was elected in 1974 and was briefly considered as a running mate for Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter in 1980. But a ponderous address at the Democratic National Convention — people walked out — caused Carter to remark that Glenn was "the most boring man I ever met."

Glenn sought the Democratic presidential nomination himself in 1984 but was quickly eliminated by eventual nominee Walter Mondale, Carter's vice president. His failure was all the more stinging because he had been touted as an early front-runner.

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Landmark survey: US transgender people harassed in public restrooms

Beyond the immediate impact of contributing to the political debate, the study dubbed the U.S. Transgender Survey will also provide a data set to satisfy researchers for years to come.

Almost 60 percent of transgender Americans have avoided using public restrooms for fear of confrontation, saying they have been harassed and assaulted, according to the largest survey taken of transgender people in the United States.

The survey of 27,715 respondents reached an estimated 2 percent of the adult transgender population in 2015, seeking to fill a gap in data about a severely understudied group whose experiences and challenges from medicine to law to economics and family relations are poorly understood.

The findings by the National Center for Transgender Equality on public restrooms counter the message of mainly conservative politicians and religious leaders that transgender people are the antagonists preying on others. It found that 12 percent of transgender people were verbally harassed in public restrooms within the previous year, 1 percent were physically attacked and 1 percent were sexually assaulted. Nine percent said someone denied them access to a bathroom.

Besides the restroom data, the survey turned up new findings, including that 29 percent of transgender people were living in poverty compared to 14 percent for the U.S. population at large, and that 39 percent experienced serious psychological distress within the previous month, nearly eight times the rate for the general population.

Unisex signs hang outside bathrooms. GETTY IMAGES

Other results reinforced previous findings, for example, showing that 40 percent have attempted suicide in their lifetimes compared with 5 percent for the U.S. population, and 7 seven percent attempted suicide in the previous year, nearly 12 times the rate for the U.S. population.

The survey was taken before the passage of North Carolina's House Bill 2, which forces transgender people to use the public restroom corresponding to their gender assigned at birth rather than the one matching their gender identity. Supporters of the law such as North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory said it was necessary to protect children and preserve traditional values.

"This is what's really happening in bathrooms. The nonsense of what Gov. McCrory was saying is not what's happening in bathrooms." Keisling

Backlash to the law, including boycotts by entertainers and sports organizations who called it hateful and discriminatory, has been widely cited as a reason Republican McCrory lost in the Nov. 8 election to Democrat Roy Cooper, who opposed the bill.

Thirty-two percent of transgender people said they limited the amount they ate or drank at least once in the previous year so they did not need to use a public restroom. Eight percent reported having a kidney or urinary tract infection, or another kidney-related medical issue, because they avoided restrooms.

"Trans people have been in danger in the bathrooms. These numbers are just astronomically high. This is what's really happening in bathrooms. The nonsense of what Gov. McCrory was saying is not what's happening in bathrooms," said Mara Keisling, director of the National Center for Transgender Equality.

REUTERS

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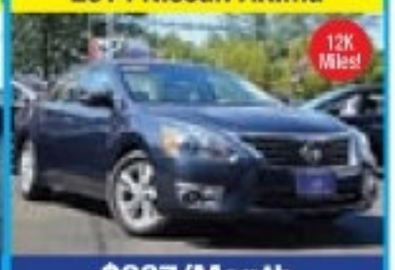

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NFL player's New Jersey home vandalized with racist taunts

An National Football League player's northern New Jersey home was vandalized with a swastika and other racist taunts scrawled on the inside walls during a break-in this week, according to police and photos that the player posted online.

The break-in happened on Tuesday night while Nikita Whitlock, a fullback with the New York Giants, and his family were not at home, police in the borough of Moonachie said.

Photos that Whitlock posted on Instagram showed a broken window, a swastika and a racial epithet for black Americans.

"Racism is real and instead of close to home this time they came inside," Whitlock wrote on the photo-sharing service. "My family is safe but we are saddened by the hate."

Nikita Whitlock, No. 49 on the New York Giants GETTY IMAGES

"Racism is real and instead of close to home this time they came inside ... My family is safe but we are saddened ..."

Whitlock posted on Instagram

Whitlock could not immediately be reached for comment on Thursday.

Moonachie police are investigating the vandalism as a bias incident, or hate crime, Sgt. Richard Behrens said. The borough is about three miles north of the MetLife Stadium, in East Rutherford, New Jersey, the New York City suburb where the Giants play their home games.

"We're exploring all avenues right now," Behrens said.

Video of the graffiti from a local CBS affiliate showed other taunts including "KKK," "Go back to Africa" and "Trump."

The number of hate and bias incidents reported across the United States spiked in the days after Republican Donald Trump's presidential election victory, according to a report released last month by a civil rights advocacy group.

The incidents have included numerous cases of people threatening apparent immigrants with deportation and vandalism deriding black Americans, many of which cited Trump's victory.

Since his victory, Trump has said he rejects acts of violence or harassment, and disavowed the support of white nationalist groups. REUTERS

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Lola Kirke's Hailey reunites with Gael Garcia Bernal's "Maestro" on the third season of "Mozart in the Jungle," bowing today on Amazon. AMAZON

THE FUN STARTS HERE

Lola Kirke says 'wake the f— up'

The "Mozart in the Jungle" actress thinks we all need to find a way to talk to each other.

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Lola Kirke offers me some of the bread she's eating. She holds up a croissant and we tear it apart like a wishbone. She's been given too much, enough for two, yet you get the sense she'd break bread anyway. But the actress also has something else on her mind: The third season of "Mozart in the Jungle" — the award-gobbling dramedy about a sometimes struggling New York symphony — just dropped today on Amazon.

Once again, Kirke plays Hailey, the aspiring oboist and occasional assistant to flighty conductor Rodrigo (Gael Garcia Bernal). Since last we saw them, the band, as it were, has temporarily broken up. Hailey and Rodrigo have both gone abroad, and before they return to the States, they wind up in Venice, working with a temperamental opera singer (Monica Bellucci).

But of course, Kirke — 26, also of "Mistress America" and the Tom Cruise thriller "American Made," due next year — doesn't mind talking Trump first. But we decide to be positive, not negative.

I think we're at this point where we can still make a difference. What about you?

Like many privileged white people, I was living under the assumption that Hillary would win and the world would be restored to normalcy. A lot of people, mostly people of color, I've spoken to have said, "Hello! Wake the f— up! That was never a reality. The things you are fearing now are the things we have always been fearing." I was doing some minimal work on the Hillary campaign towards the end. Since then, it's been really important to focus on what I can actually do, instead of getting overwhelmed by the big whole. Democracy isn't that sexy. It's just calling your representatives over and over again, or taking Paul Ryan's health care survey, which everyone should do, by calling his office. I try to keep it really simple.

That might also involve finding a way to talk to Trump voters, in a civil way.

Perhaps this is optimistic, but I think not talking to people who have different political views than you do is what got us here in the first place. Trying to have conversations with people who are different from you — that's the f—ing essence of life! Everyone's different from you, even people united by liberalism.

GETTY IMAGES

Then again, easier said than done.

But trying to engage in conversation with people who have different views is a really valuable thing to do.

I'm not sure how to even tie what we've been talking about into "Mozart in the Jungle," but here goes: This is a show about the orchestral music scene, which is not doing that well, and will be in likely even tougher shape under a new administration that sees no use for the arts.

I like that this show is about asking if it's possible to sustain an artistic practice in more antiquated mediums, like classical music. It shows how f—ing difficult that is. In a capitalist society, things that do not make money get thrown out very quickly. We watched [the new episodes] again last night, and everything postelection has a new meaning. Watching the scene where the orchestra is locked out of their building last night, I went, "Wow, this show knew what was going on, in a way." It's about protecting the arts and arts education and the lack of that in schools.

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Thievery Corporation reminisce for a moment

Eric Hilton, left, and Rob Garza will release "The Temple of I and I" on Feb. 10. PROVIDED

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With a career spanning decades, the artists retreated to the sun, surf and sand.

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Twenty years since their debut album, Thievery Corporation still record in the same way: cooped up in a room with instruments and plenty of booze.

That said, Rob Garza and Eric Hilton — the production duo who began recording music together in the liquor stockroom at D.C.'s 18th Street Lounge in 1995 — have made lots of musical headway since the early days.

From Latin-inspired sounds to jazz to dub and trip-hop, they have made seven diverse, critically acclaimed studio albums. For just a moment before their next record, Garza and Hilton look back and celebrate their career with a 20th anniversary tour.

Finding the groove

Garza pinpoints their sophomore record, "The Mirror Conspiracy" (2000), as the turning point for the band. "At that moment … people were digging it all over the world, and there was this great momentum and energy that just kind of fueled us and inspired us into having a career that's lasted 20 years," he says.

And, of course, their defining trip-hop jam "Lebanese Blonde" is on that record. "We just really used the sitar for the first time. I think that that was really a moment — kind of making that song."

Revisiting bossanova

Over the following 14 years, Thievery Corporation made a name for themselves as a genre-melding, politically-charged electronica group. And then they then returned to their bossanova roots on "Saudade," the group's 2014 effort.

"For me, [bossanova is] one of my great loves in music," explains Garza. "I just love so many Brazilian artists. There's something very cinematic and very nighttime quality to the music. Sort of an impressionistic vibe. It's a very beautiful form."

Coming in 2017: Jamaican vibes

For their next album called "The Temple of I and I" (out on Feb. 10), Garza and Hilton brought a band down to Port Antonio, Jamaica, to channel sounds from the Caribbean.

Garza says the new record, which dives back into trip-hop, is "more energetic." Considering their hectic daily routine during the two-week recording sessions, we're not surprised.

"We'd hang out at the beach and get some sun and just kind of feel the vibe," he says. "And then we'd kind of lock ourselves in the studio for about 12 hours and drink Jamaican rum and eat jerk chicken and just play music and maybe step out at night for a drink or two and then do it all again."

A surprising live show

Thievery Corporation may be laid-back on their recordings — but don't expect the same onstage. The performances feature at least a dozen musicians: sitar, bass, percussion, drums, guitar, a horn section and "about five or six singers," according to Garza.

"Sometimes people think it's going to be chill — you go there and by the time you leave … it's a lot different from your expectations. People are pretty surprised in terms of the energy level."

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"Office Christmas Party"

Directors: Will Speck, Josh Gordon
Stars: Jason Bateman, T.J. Miller
Rating: R

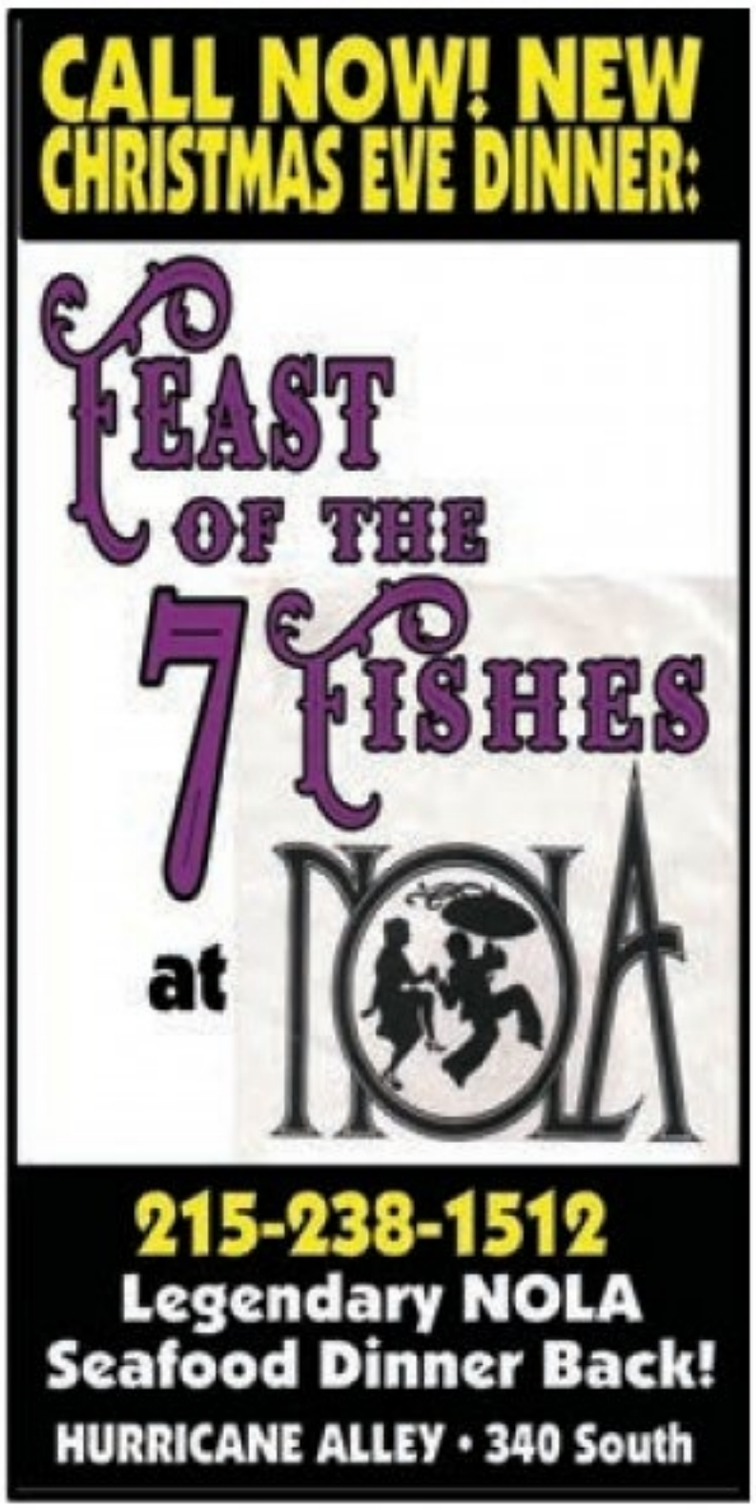
●●○○○

"The People vs. O.J. Simpson's" Courtney B. Vance (beside T.J. Miller) gets to let it all hang out in "Office Christmas Party."
PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Is it wrong to think "Office Christmas Party" isn't sufficiently debauched? What more do you need than mass boozing, office furniture set ablaze and a shirtless, coked-up Courtney B. Vance attempting to swing like Tarzan from a vine of Christmas lights? Maybe it's that this all-star comedy too often plays it safe, which is to say it falls back on too familiar vices. The jokes tend to be about sex and drugs, from a touchingly lame employee (Randall Park) who reveals a weird fetish to name actors fellating an "eggnog luge." Meanwhile the story lines involve sincere office romance, sibling rivalry and a crime subplot swiped from an '80s comedy. Honestly, it has nothing on last year's "Sisters," which culminated in a suburban manse devoured by a sink-hole.

Unlike "Sisters," "Office Christmas Party" doesn't almost ruin the fun before it begins. Energetically directed by Will Speck and Josh Gordon ("Blades of Glory"), it drops in on an internet server firm threatened with cutbacks, maybe worse. Jason Bateman does his 135,673rd turn as the quietly flustered straight man, playing against such grotesques as the joint's loopy trust fund boss (T.J. Miller) and a prissy HR goon (Kate McKinnon) whose loud Christmas sweaters betray her desire to keep the cocktails virginal. Their tyrannical CEO (Jennifer Aniston) wants their Chicago office shut down completely, and their only hope is luring a big-time client (Vance, deservedly cutting loose) to their side — maybe, they delude themselves, by throwing the type of party that gets so out of hand that computers are flung from high-up windows.

The story (though not the script) comes from "Hangover" guys Jon Lucas and Scott Moore, which isn't surprising. What is surprising is that it never gets too out of hand, falling far short of such absurdist heights as tigers roaming hotel rooms, stolen police cars or even face tattoos. It mostly falls back on a consistently diverting barrage of silliness and — that most overused yet reliable modern comedy trope — funny actors ad-libbing, including such ringers as Jillian Bell as a temperamentally imbalanced pimp who gives hugs one second, whips out a gun the next. But it's still perversely safe-ish. It should have escalated into a messy, angry, near-suicidal bacchanal — a multiplex version of this year's "High-Rise." Instead it settles for trashed employees using the 3-D printer on their peens. That will get the job done in a pinch, but 2016 deserved a far more apocalyptic rager. MATT PRIGGE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Jessica Chastain is predictably Jessica Chastain-y (i.e., awesome) as a lobbyist trying to coax America into embracing gun control. [Cue laughter mixed with gushing tears.] EUROPACORP

"Miss Sloane"

Director: John Madden
Stars: Jessica Chastain, Gugu Mbatha-Raw
Rating: R

●●○○○

To its credit, "Miss Sloane" would never have been the you-go-girl rabble rouser America needs even if it had arrived on the heels of a Hillary election. It's much more complex than that. Its heroine, hot shot lobbyist Elizabeth Sloane (Jessica Chastain), inspires as much terror as respect — a no-nonsense pit bull with lipstick, to borrow a phrase from the anti-poster child for strong, independent women. A pill-popping workaholic, she knows she faces sexism on all sides, and has overcompensated with an intimidating black wardrobe and a ruthlessness that's impressive as well as pitiable. She's both an icon for feminism and a warning sign — a perfectly coifed, hallway-barreling example of how society can poison even its most Darwinian members.

"Miss Sloane" is a lot like her — or so it thinks. It's sleek, crisp and cucumber cool. It's also not as smart as it thinks it is, whereas its hero is exactly as smart as she believes. The movie is about gun control, but it's not really about gun control. It's no message movie, using the issue simply to offer a backstage look at how the meat of government is made. Chastain's Elizabeth is a rock star lobbyist who abruptly decamps from a powerful firm right as the NRA becomes its latest client. She winds up working against her old colleagues, pulling strings and manipulating foes and allies alike, being crooked and underhanded and evil — but, you know, for the left.

This is what people have long called "adult dramas" — the kind of ostentatiously "serious" fare kids imagine their elders watch when they go to the movies. But just as adults tend to put on airs about maturing and figuring life out, "adult dramas" can still be silly. "Miss Sloane" isn't above two out-of-nowhere twists that don't make much sense upon close inspection. And as an expose that pulls back the curtain to see how the world really works, it's a mixed bag — some keen observations, some lazy stereotypes. "Miss Sloane" acts like an intelligent truth-teller that understands how America really works. But eagle-eyed viewers should be able to tell it's mere dress-up, and not only because it thinks America would ever stand up to the NRA. MP

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Alva Rogers, Trula Hoosier and Barbara-O are among the revelers in Julie Dash's 1991 art-drama "Daughters of the Dust." COHEN MEDIA GROUP

"Daughters of the Dust"

Director: Julie Dash
Stars: Cora Lee Day, Adisa Anderson
Rating: NR

●●●●○

In 1991, Julie Dash's "Daughters of the Dust" played for months at Film Forum in New York. Eventually it became one of the year's highest indie grossers. No one could quite explain why. It had no plot. It had no stars. Its meaning was obscure. It spoke in its own unique, private cinematic language. It's the rare case, since the 1970s, where what was essentially an art film broke through into a tiny part of the mainstream. And yet it wasn't a situation where repeat viewers were trying to figure it out, as one would a crossword puzzle. It was an experience, one beyond interpretation and articulation. Then and today it plays like a beloved song whose words you never learned but which still occupies a profound part of your existence.

Dash sets her film among the Gullah people — descendants of slaves who formed an enclave for generations in parts of the deep south. They live away from the ways of the white man, carrying on traditions that blend African with American. What follows sounds like a hangout movie, but it isn't quite. The women, in beautiful white summer dresses (recently referenced by Bey in "Lemonade"), and the men, in formal suits, cook gumbo, talk, dance. Many are planning on leaving, heading outside their protective bubble into the outside world, which looks and feels nothing like their own. Till then, they party.

It can be tricky getting your bearings on "Daughters of the Dust." It looks and feels like no other film, and you may spend the first 10, 20, maybe even 30 minutes trying to get your footing. The movie doesn't do you any favors, but it's not combative. It quietly asks that you meet it on its own terms.

Viewers of 1991 did just that; many seemed to treat it like a kind of safe space — two hours of escape and meditation, perched between demanding attention and letting it drift. Within the screen, we see characters enjoying their respite — a breather after the horrors visited upon newly emancipated slaves after the Civil War and the long, brutal fight before them in the still young century. "Daughters of the Dust" isn't a message movie, but its very existence is an act of defiance. It returns to shield us from the mounting horrors of our time and to give us the hope that comes with community. MATT PRIGGE

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3 Things to watch for when the Eagles host the Redskins Sunday

The Eagles host their first NFC East battle Sunday at 1 p.m. (on Fox).

EVAN MACY
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evan.macy@metro.us

The Eagles are technically still alive with a 2 percent chance of making the playoffs, according to Fivethirtyeight.com. GETTY IMAGES

Many optimistic Eagles fans thought the upcoming four-pack of games to end the season — three of these coming both at home and against NFC East foes — to be a bit more important.

But stuck in the mud at 5-7 after a 3-0 start the Eagles will need not only to run the table but also to get help from nearly half a dozen teams to land in a wild card spot.

Their uphill battle will commence Sunday afternoon against the Redskins.

Here are three things to watch for in the Week 14 matchup:

1 Take two

Back on October 16 in Washington, the Eagles were 3-1 — fresh off their first loss of the year against the Lions — and revved up to take control of the division against the Redskins.

A few big plays kept the Eagles in the game despite an atrocious run defense and Carson Wentz had the ball in his hands with a chance to march down the field and tie things (before taking a controversial sack). It wasn't so in the 27-20 setback.

"Felt like we had opportunities in the game," Doug Pederson told the media this week, looking back at the bitter defeat. "We didn't capitalize on a few things in the football game. Fell behind again defensively. Malcolm [Jenkins] had the pick-six and kind of kept us right in there. Special teams had a big play. So those are things that kept us in that football game. I know offensively we have to do a little bit better executing our game plan, just understanding. It's great to now finally have a home game here with them, and a great opportunity against a good football team that's playing extremely well."

2 Defensive identity crisis

After their Week 10 win against the Falcons at home, Philadelphia's total defense ranked sixth of 32 NFL teams. Over the last three games, the Eagles have averaged more than 412 yards allowed on defense, the third worst in that span. What the heck happened?

"You know, for nine weeks you probably could not mention best defenses in the NFL without mentioning the Eagles," Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz said this week. "The last three, you probably can't mention worst defenses in the NFL without mentioning the Eagles. Hey, facts of life, man. That's what it is. Same scheme, same players. ... We're in a slump. You know? We have to own that. We're in a three-game slump."

Philly needs its pass rush against Kirk Cousins and the Skins. Over those last three putrid weeks, the Eagles have averaged 0.3 sacks per game. Prior to that it was 2.8 per game, one of the best in football.

3 Wentz wearing out?

The Eagles will get back two of their biggest weapons in Ryan Mathews and Jordan Matthews Sunday as each were full participants in practice. With a full (at least full by Eagles standards) stockpile of offensive weapons can Wentz rebound from perhaps his worst game of the season?

"Every quarterback tries to do too much, especially when you're not generating the points that we want to generate," offensive coordinator Frank Reich said of Wentz, who threw three interceptions in a whopping 60 attempts in a 32-14 loss in Cincinnati. "Are there going to be times when you try to do too much? Yes, absolutely. Has it happened? Yeah. But I don't think it's happened as much as it could have, to be honest with you. I think he's handled it pretty well."

Wentz's quarterback rating has regressed with every passing month, dropping from 103.8 in September to 83.3 in October to 70.9 in November. Last week he posted a 58.2 rating to start December.

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **December 16, 2016** at **11:30AM** at the Extra Space Storage facility located at: **6204 Oxford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111, 215-744-1563.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.

A117C Keturah Shanirayh Williams (Household Goods), B127 Carmen Khafizov (Garage Items), B168C Mark A. Branch (Household Items), B217C Erica R. Krider (Household Goods), C107 Khalil R. Darlington (Household), C194C Darryl K. Richardson (Church Equipment), C197C Darryl K. Richardson (Church Equipment), E102 Regina M. Kersey (Clothing, Household Items), F118 Brenda Jackson (Household, Furniture).

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

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Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction at the storage facility listed below, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: Extra Space Storage **12005 Roosevelt Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19154 215-514-2704, December 16, 2016** at **2:30pm.**

F6 Pablo Camacho household items - 1401 Joan Hunt household items - 705 Tyrone Smith household items 814 Tamara Taylor totes - 1258 Eric Divivey household items - J12 Mark Mootoo furniture I14 Hernan Lopez construction items - 1218 Lance Jenkins furniture - 617 Mary Knecht boxes C11 James Newton household goods - 1107 Carolyn Gottlieb boxes - 910 Shawn Buday household items

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **December 16, 2016** at **1:00PM**, at the Extra Space Storage facility located at: **1553 Grant Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19115, (215) 464-3913**. The personal goods stored therin by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes and appliances.

460 - Cathy Wagner (household),
55 - Sungnam Hong (restaurant equipment),
245 - Shahida Jefferson (household, clothes),
148 - Walter Demetro (furniture, household)

Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is and must be removed at the time of purchase. Extra Space Storage reserves the right to refuse any bid. Sale is subject to adjournment.

Public Storage **NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Self Storage Act, Pennsylvania Statues, 73, Chapter 26, 1901 et seq., A Public Auction Will take Place on **12/21/16** at the below listed Public Storage Facilities for the follow units/Tenants. The Contents of which shall satisfy the Owners Lien. **Public Storage Located At, 2700 Grant Ave. Philadelphia PA 19114 at 11:00 AM (215) 698-8319.**

Renee Johnson, Anthony Hammerquist, Larry Rice, Brian Bruce, DANA HARGROVE - MOORE, Dennis Morris, Marline Dennis, Gus Bergmann, David Jackson, William Transue, Stuart Janoff, Jessica Spiewak, Shawnia Walton, Joseph Kellenbarz, Angie Stoole, Dawn Dominski, Philip Fletcher, PAUL SLAVIN, PAUL SLAVIN, Clement Hipple, Lenette Thigpen-Robinson, Cassandra Brucker, Jerome Wolcott Jr. Lakisha Glasgow, Joseph Meade, Adam Haynes, Philip Fletcher

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Eileen Martello, Lakisha Murphy, Kelly Mcginniss, Angela Young, Ronald Frank, Donald Predmora, Cheryl Mcnally, Robert Hernandez

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Chaunte Traeye, Augusta Clay, Jessica Erickson, Benetta Johnson-Scott, Lisa Kania, Jennifer Dawson, Gretchen Peak, Hedy Powers, Eugene Beaddy, Michele McCullough, Jay Rankovitz, Sandy Dewey, Thomas Williams, Norrisa Rutherford, Kerry Wedemeyer, Thomas Carney, Jason Lopez, Scott Scarpiello, James Leonard, Steven Posten Jr, Deanna Bembury, John Desilva, Jose Rodriguez-Ocasio, George Schiefer

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Dak Prescott's only career loss came against the Giants. GETTY IMAGES

Best NFL bets for Week 14

Where to place your money this weekend.

ROBERT CRISCOLA
@ItsGood2BeKing
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Road teams have the edge in a pair of NFC East matchups this week.

Dallas Cowboys (-3) at New York Giants
The Giants have built a "giant-killer" reputation on their way to two Super Bowl titles since 2008, but recent history tells a different story. They've won just one of its last 10 games as an underdog and was exposed in the eyes of many when it was throttled by the Steelers last Sunday. And while they beat the Cowboys in Week 1, Dallas hasn't lost since.

In the aftermath of that season-opening clash, Ezekiel Elliott has established himself as the obvious choice for Offensive Rookie of the Year while Dak Prescott has made the Cowboys' scouts look like masterminds. Also, Jason Pierre-Paul won't be around to make their lives miserable this time (sports hernia surgery).

Eli Manning will need to find Odell Beckham Jr. more than four times (the tally in Week 1) if the Giants want to win this game. As it stands, it looks like the Cowboys will escape with yet another victory.
The pick: Cowboys -3

Redskins at Eagles (E)
The Eagles have gone into free-fall, losing their last three tilts by multiple scores and mustering an average of just 14 points in those contests. And speaking of losing streaks, Philly is in line to drop their fifth straight to the Redskins this Sunday.

Philly's Oct. 16 clash with Washington was an exercise in futility, as the Eagles were torched for 493 yards by the Redskins offense. Kirk Cousins should have no problem working his will downfield once more, as the Eagles have surrendered an average of over 277 YPG through the air during their three-game skid. And while the 'Skins have dropped their last two games on the road, they've still been a good bet away from D.C. this year. Washington is the week's best bet.
The pick: Redskins (E)

Bears at Lions (-8)
After beating up on the hapless 49ers last week, the Bears are in for a dose of reality as they travel to Detroit.

The Lions are 7-1 ATS (against the spread) in their last eight games and have covered in each of their last five home games. And while the Bears did beat Detroit back in October, Brian Hoyer was leading the way at QB that day. The interception-prone third-stringer Matt Barkley (four picks in just 87 attempts) is now in charge.
The pick: Lions -8

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Phillies, Klentak also asking fans to 'trust the process'

The Phillies have made a few minor moves but are holding back from making a splash — for now.

KYLE PHILLIPPI
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The agile and durable Howie Kendrick will be a good fit for the evolving and youthful Phillies infield, in need of a veteran presence. GETTY IMAGES

"Trust the process" has become the unofficial motto of the Philadelphia sports scene.

Originally used synonymously with the 76ers rebuild, the term has — in some manner — been instilled in all four of the city's major pro teams, including the Phillies. General manager Matt Klentak furthered that mindset during the winter meetings when he told reporters he wouldn't be forcing anything for the sake of making a move.

Through the early going of the offseason, the Phillies' biggest moves have been the surprising return of Jeremy Hellickson and the signings of reliever Joaquin Benoit and the Swiss-army knife that is Howie Kendrick. The latter is expected to start in left field but could easily see time in the middle infield if needed.

None of those moves are the blockbusters that have come to define the winter meetings. There weren't any "Chris Sale to Boston" or "Aroldis Chapman to the New York Yankees" type moves being made by the Phillies.

That's perfectly fine.

The Phillies, for lack of a better term, are trusting their process, which means they're banking on their prospects and smart, calculated acquisitions when the time comes.

Nonetheless, this is still a franchise that hasn't won more than 73 games since 2012. To make matters worse, they're stuck in the National League East, a division that is top heavy between the Washington Nationals and New York Mets, both of which possess young cores that should keep them relevant for quite a few years.

"We had a bunch of good young players in Triple-A last year, some of them are probably going to make our opening day club."

Phillies' GM Matt Klentak, to CSNPhilly

So improving this team for the time being definitely is a concern for the Phillies' management. While they most likely won't be making rumored moves like trading for Pittsburgh's Andrew McCutchen or Minnesota second baseman Brian Dozier, there are still low-risk, high-reward type players out there on the market.

If outfield is something they want to continue to address, having already brought in Kendrick, the return of Peter Bourjos could very well be an option. Bourjos had his most productive season since leaving the Los Angeles Angels in 2013. A reunion with Michael Bourn could be in the mix as he would be an improvement over Bourjos. Names like Matt Joyce, Chris Coghlan and Sam Fuld could also be considered.

The Phillies, though, will most likely place all their eggs in the bullpen. Bringing in Benoit is a good start to that seeing he posted a 2.81 ERA last season with Seattle and Toronto. If there's any position that will see the Phillies willing to spend money, it'll be a reliever. Benoit is most likely just the beginning for the Phillies.

Outside of that, the remaining roster will be filled with the same faces from a year ago and a potential infusion of youth depending on how spring training turns out. So don't hold your breath for a front page-worthy acquisition this winter, but do pay attention as Klentak makes some shrewd moves to better this year's roster.

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WE BUY JUNK CARS!
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Free pickup!
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SAME DAY PICKUP
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- Divorce
- Court Case Problem
- Children's Problem
- Health / Wealth
- Sexual Problem
- Business
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Enemy Problems, Jealousy
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- Benefit Rate and Non-Benefit Rate
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School Bus Driver
Making
up to
$15.75
PER HOUR?
YellowBird Bus Company
Is Now Hiring Current And Brand New Drivers!
We Offer The Training Because We Need You!

Do You Have The Following:
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- Clean Criminal History

Well Then We Would Love To Talk To You!

Please Stop In Between 9:00AM-1:30PM
YELLOWBIRD BUS COMPANY
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Philadelphia PA 19136
YELLOWBIRDBUS.COM
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- Experience preferred or will train
- PA license • Good MVR
- At least 21 years old
- Location is accessible to public transportation

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ENTERTAINMENT

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(782-2533)
215-PANTIES
(726-8437)
LD Rates Apply 18+

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION TO INVOLUNTARILY TERMINATE PARENTAL RIGHTS IMPORTANT LEGAL NOTICE

In Re: Adoption of Baby Boy Feeney a/k/a Patrick James Higgins, a minor. File No. 84988 of 2016 in the Orphans Court of Berks County, Pennsylvania

To: Any Unknown John Doe, or Anyone Claiming Paternity of Baby Boy Feeney a/k/a Patrick James Higgins born on August 7, 2016. The mother of said child is Mercedes Feeney.

A Petition has been filed asking the Court to put an end to all rights you have to your child Baby Boy Feeney a/k/a Patrick James Higgins. The Court has set a hearing to consider ending your rights to your child. That hearing will be held in the Courtroom designated for Senior Judge Arthur Grim, Berks County Courthouse, 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601, on December 28, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. You have a right to attend the hearing. If you fail to attend the scheduled hearing, the Hearing will go on without you and the Court may end your rights to your child without your being present. You have a right to be represented at the Hearing by a lawyer. You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer, cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.

LAWYERS REFERRAL SERVICE OF
THE BERKS COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
544-546 Court Streets
READING, PA 19601
Call (610) 375-4591

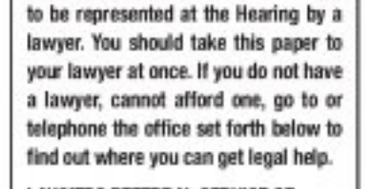
BARBARA B. CASEY, ESQUIRE
527 ELM STREET
READING, PA 19601

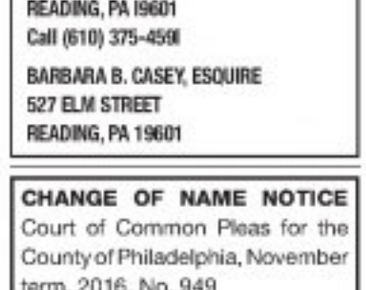
CHANGE OF NAME NOTICE
Court of Common Pleas for the County of Philadelphia, November term, 2016, No. 949

Notice is hereby given that on November 14, 2016, the petition of: Robert Lee Berry was filed, praying for a decree to change his name to Robert Lee Latimore, Jr.

The Court has fixed court date, January 6, 2017 at 11:30A.M., in Room No. 691, City Hall, Philadelphia, PA for hearing. All persons interested may appear and show cause if any they have, why the prayer of the said petition should not be granted.

ENTERTAINMENT





PLAY OUR NEWS QUIZ, WIN $100! (see page 2)

metro.us/games

metro.us/crossword

Across
1 Ranis' servants
6 Mild onions
11 Coal scuttle
14 Quiver filler
15 Fiber – cable
16 Baba of folklore
17 Be contingent on
18 Some canines
19 Dogma
20 Winter woe
22 Helena rival
24 Guest bungalows
28 Realms
30 Brunch fare
31 Takes a crack at
32 Budged
33 Digs for a pick and shovel
37 Swelling reducer
38 Like crazy
39 Camper, maybe
40 Gregarious
43 Conjecture
45 Generously
46 Quinella's kin
47 Pirate's sword
50 Faked out
51 Willow tree
52 Like worn tires
53 Dartboard locale
54 In-box contents
57 Not suitable
62 Prior to
63 Blows the whistle
64 Don Diego masked
65 Leb. neighbor
66 Pricey fur
67 Banquet host

Down
1 Long sigh
2 Hi-tech scan
3 Son of Val and Aleta
4 Glutton
5 Exuded moisture
6 Pond blossom
7 Fencing sword
8 Paris summer
9 First-aid box
10 Intrigues
11 Voodoo island
12 Folger's Mrs.
13 Thin dough?
21 Hood's weapon
23 Window frame
24 Kind of relief
25 BP merger partner
26 Stars in the Big Dipper
27 Dot in the Seine
28 Oddly amusing
29 Too suave
31 Morning show
33 Opossum grippers
34 Banish a tenant
35 NASA's volcano-exploring robot
36 Links champ Sam –
38 Baseball honorees, briefly
41 Goodbye, to Gaius
42 Turkish inns
43 Get rusty
44 Stovetop item
46 Ocean dweller
47 Deals with
48 High interest
49 Caesar's river
50 Not real
52 List of charges
55 Give – – break
56 White vestment
58 – de plume
59 Bow shape
60 Not post-
61 Familiar digit

metro.us/sudoku

easy

		4				7		
	2							8
3	7		9	6				5
1	3	9			2			
5	6			8			1	3
			5			6	7	9
7				5	1		4	2
8							9	
		2				1		

hard

8		7					2	5
	2							6
				8	5	7		
6	8		7		4		3	
		2				9		
	3		9		2		6	8
		8	5	4				
3							5	
5	1					6		9

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries You may come under pressure if you aren't prepared. Do your research and be ready to match anyone who wants to face off with you. Victory is heading your way.

Taurus Use your mind in order to get your way. Putting physical demands on someone will not help you come out on top. Learn from experience.

Gemini Put your time and energy into doing a great job. Lending a helping hand is commendable, but being taken advantage of isn't fair. Set a limit as well as boundaries.

Cancer You may want to bring about change, but having a legitimate plan that is realistic and easy to implement will determine whether you will be successful.

Leo A change will do you good. Making travel plans, attending a conference or visiting places that spark memories will help you bring about new beginnings.

Virgo Get involved in activities that will help you put your troubles on the back burner. The break will do you good and help you put domestic situations in perspective.

Libra Relationships may need a little encouragement, but once you start to share and compromise, you will find common ground. Change is favored, but avoid overspending.

Scorpio Give more thought to the future and stop dwelling on the past. Mistakes should help you learn and push you forward with more knowledge and experience.

Sagittarius Personal change will bring about positive results. Address the things you don't like and adjust your life in order to fulfill your dreams.

Capricorn You'll be taken by surprise if you aren't careful. Don't rule out anything or commit to something until you have all the facts. Your intuitive intelligence will pay off.

Aquarius Appeal to the hearts of the people involved in an unsavory situation you are facing. Getting to the bottom of things will put you in a key position.

Pisces You'll gain insight into your profession and what measures you have to take in order to bring about positive change. An unusual source will surprise you. EUGENIA LAST

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